

258660

HANKOOK
TIRES

HANKOOK TIRE AMERICA CORP.

1450 Valley Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

TELEPHONE: (973) 633-9000
OUTSIDE NJ: (800) HANKOOK

FAX: (973) 633-0028
FAX: (800) TIRES OK

NHTSA-03-16463-1

September 26, 2003

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

**Re : Petition for inconsequential Treatment of a
Noncompliance, 215/50R17 91H 04PR H405**

Dear Administrator:

Hankook Tire Co. Ltd, a Korean Corporation, hereby petitions for exemption from notification and remedy requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Acts, as amended, in accordance with the provisions of 49 C.F.R., Section 571.109 S.4.3 (e)

This petition affects the 215/50R17 91H 04PR H405 tires and produced in Hankook. Daejon Plant during DOT weeks 16 through 21, DOT weeks 24 and 25 of the year 2003 (See attachment "B").

Approximately 3,049 affected tires had the nylon ply number mismarked on one side DOT serial side.

Actual marking was:

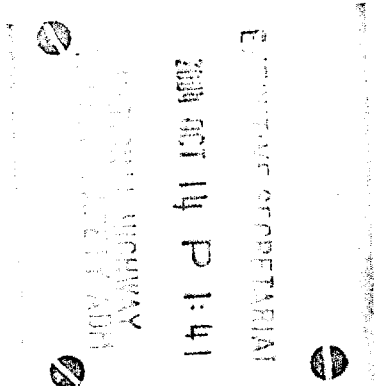
- 2 steel + 2 polyester + 2 nylon.

Correct marking should have been:

- 2 steel + 2 polyester + 1 nylon.

(Please refer to attached photographs)

Note: The nylon ply number was correctly marked opposite DOT serial side.



ES03-007305



HANKOOK TIRE AMERICA CORP.

1450 Valley Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

TELEPHONE: (973) 633-9000
OUTSIDE NJ: (800) HANKOOK

FAX: (973) 633-0028
FAX: (800) TIRES OK

Petition inconsequential Treatment of a
Noncompliance, 215/50R17 91H 04 PR H405

It is submitted that the noncompliance described herein does not relate to motor vehicle safety.

First the affected the tires meet all requirement of 49 C.F.R., Section 571.109 except the markings pertaining to S4.3. (e).

Second, the markings on the opposite DOT serial side of the affected tire are correct.

In view of this information and facts presented, Hankook submits that possible adverse effect upon motor vehicle safety, which could be attributed to the noncompliance, should be deemed inconsequential. Accordingly, exemption form the notification and remedy requirement of the Act is requested.

Attachment "A" is a copy of Noncompliance Notification Letter as required in 49 C.F.R., Part 556.

In accordance with requirements of 49 C.F.R., Part 556, three copies of this petition are being submitted.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.C. Kim", written over a horizontal line.

S.C.Kim
General Manager
Hankook Tire America Corp.

* Attachment
A : Noncompliance Report
B : Photographs

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On August 28, 2003, Hankook Tire America Corp. [MFR] decided that (a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. Section 571.109 S4.3(e)) exists in terms of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: September 4, 2003

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. 30164.

Manufacturere: Hankook Tire Co. Ltd.
Attn: Mr. Byung Soo Kim
647-15 Yoksam-Dong
GangNam-Gu
Seoul, Korea

Importer/Distributor: Hankook Tire America Corp.
1450 Valley Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Mr. Seok Chan Kim,
General Manager
Hankook Tire America Corp.
1450 Valley Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Telephone Number: Tel: 973-633-9000 Ext. 141
Fax: 973-633-0028
E-mail: sckim@hankooktireusa.com

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Dae-Ki Min, Esq.
38 West 32nd Street, Suite 1600
New York, New York 10001
Tel: 212-736-0650
FAX: 212-465-8648
E-Mail: daekimin@Worldnet.att.net

Signed:

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Automobile Tire "Hankook 215/50R17 91H 04PR H405"

Generic name of the item: Passenger Automobile Tire

Make: Model: 215/50R17 91H 04PR H405

Part Number: Size:

Function:

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

The number of nylon plies engraved on the sidewall was correct. However the number of nylon plies engraved on the other side was mismarked as follows:

Correct Marking on one side:	2 STEEL + 2 POLYESTER + 1 NYLON
Mismarking on the other side:	2 STEEL +2 POLYESTER +2 NYLON

The number of mismarked tires produced were as follows:

Batch #1	4/21/03-4/28/03 (16 th Week):	264 tires
Batch #2	4/28/03-5/27/03 (17 th -21 st Week):	2,205 Tires
Batch #3	6/17/03-6/25/03 (24 th & 25 th Week):	580 Tires

Total tires mismarked	3,049
-----------------------	-------

Make: Model: Not applicable

Part Number: Size: Not applicable
Function: Not applicable
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: Model: Not applicable
Part Number: Size: Not applicable
Function: Not applicable
Model Years Involved: Not applicable
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of the equipment to be recalled:

Make: model: Not applicable
Part Number: Size: Not applicable
Function: Not applicable
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Not applicable

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Number of Items: 3,049 Individual passenger automobile steel belted radial tires

Model Year Potentially Involved: 2003

Total Number Potentially Affected by the recalled: 3,049 Individual Tires

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment.

The total affected tires were determined by specifically identifying use of the particular mold with mismarked nylon ply number. The mismarking was noted on or about July 24, 2003 when this mold was about to be used for Batch #4 and the mismarking was immediately corrected. There have been no further mismarked tires being produced since then.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

One side of the affected tires (3,049 in total) nylon ply number was mismarked as 2 which should have been 1.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Mismarking was caused by one particular mold just put into use.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

While it may cause confusion to some users the non-compliance is not considered to be safety related.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Not considered necessary.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Not applicable

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Not applicable

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Not applicable

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

Not applicable

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufactures' remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The mismarking was corrected on the particular mold immediately upon finding of the mismarking. Because the affected tires are already in the stream of distribution and not amendable to retrieval, the mismarking is limited to 3,049 individual tires and the non-compliance is generally not safety related, manufacturer intends to apply for exemption for inconsequential non-compliance.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Not applicable

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

Not applicable

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufactures, dealer/retailers and purchaser. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Not applicable

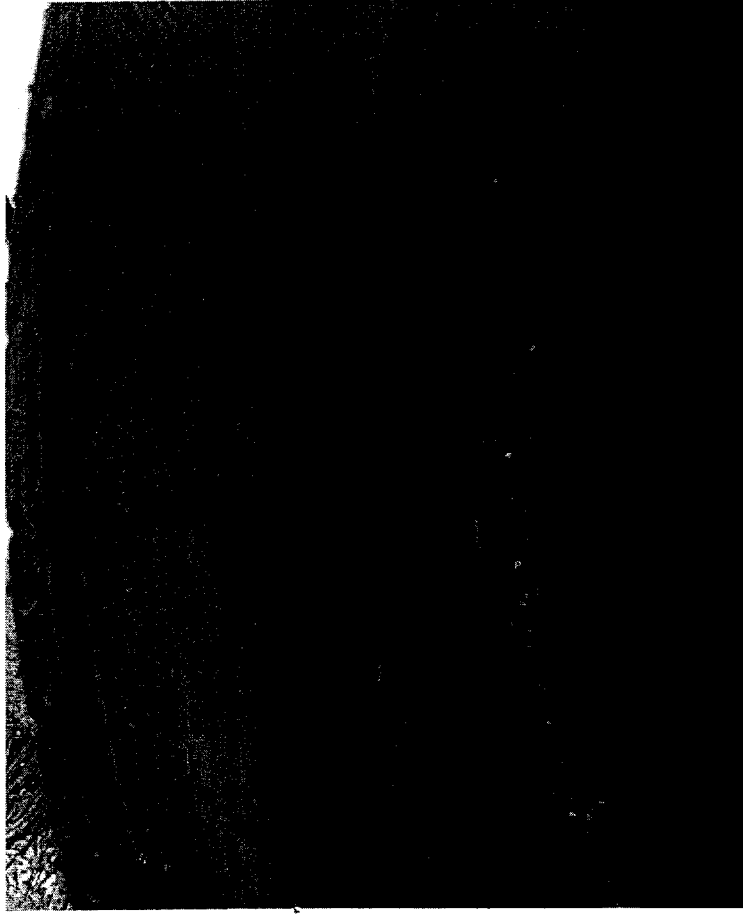
VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

Not applicable

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

< OTHER SIDE >



< ONE SIDE >

